

back over said outer surface creating an enclosure, and a stent enclosed within said enclosure;

inserting said artificial inner layer into said blood vessel;

positioning said artificial inner layer within said blood vessel so that said end section enclosing said stent is positioned adjacent said end flap; and

retaining said end flap between said end section and said blood vessel by expanding said stent.

15. A method as in claim 14, wherein said providing step comprises providing an artificial blood vessel inner layer having a tubular section comprising a fluoro carbon polymer.

16. A method as in claim 14, wherein said providing step comprises providing an artificial blood vessel inner layer having a tubular section that has a length at least as long as said removed section of blood vessel inner layer.

17. A method as in claim 14, wherein said providing step comprises providing an artificial blood vessel inner layer having a stent comprising a stainless steel gauze.

18. A method as in claim 14, wherein said providing step comprises providing an artificial blood vessel inner layer having a stent comprising a length of memory metal preprogrammed to expand at a determined temperature.

19. A method as in claim 14, wherein said providing step comprises providing an artificial inner layer having an enclosure comprising a fluid-tight enclosure.

20. A method as in claim 14, wherein said positioning step comprises positioning said artificial inner layer using a catheter.

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21. A method as in claim 20, wherein said catheter comprises a guide wire and a sheath.

22. A method as in claim 20, wherein said catheter comprises a blood vessel widener.

23. A method as in claim 22, wherein said widener comprises a cone-shaped element operably attached to a distal end of said catheter.

24. A method as in claim 22, wherein said widener comprises an inflatable balloon operably attached to a distal end of said catheter.

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25. A method as in claim 22, wherein said widener is wider than said end section during said inserting step and narrower than said end section after said retaining step due to said stent enclosed within said end section expanding during said expanding step.

26. A method as in claim 22, wherein said widener has substantially the same diameter as an internal diameter of said blood vessel.

27. A method as in claim 22, wherein said retaining step comprises using said widener to widen said stent in order to press said end section against said end flap.

28. A method as in claim 14, wherein said retaining step comprises retaining said end flap by expanding said stent so that an outer diameter of said tubular section is approximately equal to an inner diameter of said blood vessel.

29. A method as in claim 14, wherein the providing step comprises providing an artificial blood vessel inner layer further comprising two end sections creating two enclosures and two stents enclosed within said enclosures.

30. A method as in claim 14, further comprising the step of stitching one end section to said blood vessel.

31. A method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of bunging the blood vessel.

32. A method as in claim 31 wherein said bunging step comprises bunging said blood vessel using said widener.

33. A method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of exerting pressure outwardly on said stent with said widener during a withdrawal of said catheter from said blood vessel.

34. A blood vessel treating assembly, comprising:  
an artificial blood vessel inner layer comprising a supple tubular section having inner and outer surfaces, at least one end section of said tubular section folded back over said outer surface creating an enclosure;

an expandable stent enclosed within said enclosure, said stent having a small diameter state and an expanded state; and

a catheter having a distal end, a proximal end and a bulbous cone-shaped widener having a fixed diameter and operably attached to said distal end, wherein said widener fixed diameter is larger than a diameter of said end section when said stent is in said small diameter state and narrower than said end section diameter when said stent is in said expanded state. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 have been examined. Claims 1-13 have been canceled and claims 14-34 have been added. Consideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Initial Matters

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.